drug regulatory infrastructure in the country by augmenting the drug testing facilities by providing for equipments, civil works, staff and consumables and extensive training of drug regulatory/quality control officials and industry personnel. Annual drug testing capacity to be raised to 1,00,000 samples as against 36,000 to 38,000 samples.

(vi) Special training programme for improving investigations and legal skills organized for State officials.

A legislation to amend the penal provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and to provide for stricter penalties to the offenders including a maximum penalty of capital punishments, was introduced in the Parliament in December, 2003.

Since the Bill has now lapsed with the dissolution of previous Lok Sabha, necessary action to introduce a Bill to enhance penalties for manufacture and/or sale of spurious and/or adulterated drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, has been initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Revision in prices of drugs

880. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority made a downward revision in the prices of certain drugs;

(b) if so, the details of drugs whose prices were revised by the NPPA including the earlier prevalent prices of these drugs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the pharmaceutical companies are still selling these drugs on the pre-revised rates;

(d) if so, the names of such companies; and

(e) the action taken against such companies by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) In accordance with the provisions of the Drugs

(Prices Control) Order, 1995, (DPCO, 1995) the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises prices of the drugs listed in its First Schedule and formulations based thereon. In case, there is any violation of the approved/notified price of a Scheduled formulation, action is taken under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. This is a continuous exercise.

The NPPA, since its inception has fixed/revised the prices of 184 bulk drugs including the derivatives drugs. Out of these, in case of 115, the prices were revised downwards. Similarly, NPPA has fixed/ revised the prices of 2658 formulation packs since its inception and out of these, in case of 1469 formulation packs, the prices were revised downwardly.

Bulk drugs under price control

881. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than 500 commonly used bulk drugs;

(b) if so, the number and names out of them which are under the price control of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA);

(c) whether Government propose to bring more number of commonly used bulk drugs under the price control of NPPA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and when this will be done?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 1995.

(c) No decision has been taken to bring more bulk drugs under price control.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c), as above.